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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Thailand

DATE DISTR 17 NOV 49.

SUBJECT Proposed Appointment of Thamrong Nawasawat to Cabinet

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DATE OF INFO. 6 October 1949 and as noted

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Upon Luang Thanrong Nawasawat's recent return to Thailand, a hasty conference of the "inner Coup council", composed of Phibul, Luang Kach Songgram, Khemchat Bunyarataphan, and Phin Chunhawan, was convened to consider the appointment of the former Prime Minister to a Cabinet post.
2. Phin made the suggestion that Thanrong be named to the Cabinet after being convinced by Liang Chayakan that appointment of Thanrong would be of assistance in satisfying the United States that the Thai Government was actually a representative coalition and therefore eligible to make military purchases. Liang also made the point that Thanrong would assist in pacifying the Democrats in Parliament.
3. Phibul supported the proposed appointment. Khemchat and Kach protested on the grounds that the 1947 Coup was effected for the sole purpose of ousting Thanrong and, therefore, Thanrong's appointment to a cabinet post would endanger the 1947 Coup clique's accomplishments. It was also pointed out that Thanrong's presence would antagonize the Democrats and possibly aid the rebirth of the Constitutional Front and Sahacheep Parties, which already hold seats in Parliament. Kach even opposed Thanrong for personal reasons, stating that he had disliked him for a long period. After hearing these arguments, Phibul dropped the idea of appointing Thanrong to a Cabinet post.
4. Thanrong not only did not participate in the 26 February 1949 coup attempt, but he had not been advised that a coup was planned. It is not expected that Thanrong will be invited to take part in any future coup attempt.*

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■ reported that Thanrong now is unpopular with the Pridi-Navy clique. See this dissemination for further information on the 26 February 1949 coup attempt.

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Comment. Should Thanrong ever become a member of the Government, his presence should not be construed to mean that he is a representative of either the Pridi or Navy clique. There is a possibility that Thanrong returned to Thailand because he had no future outside of Thailand or with the Pridi-Navy clique. If Thanrong can escape a prison sentence and eventually secure a Government post, his lot would seem much brighter. An interesting factor in this report is the split aligning Phibul-Phin against Khemchat-Kach. Thanrong's future activities may well be an indication as to which side is the stronger.

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